Demand for Ayurvedic medicines

†2994. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to work on a large scale in the country keeping in view the rising demand of Ayurvedic medicines in the world over;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also contemplating protection, conservation and making patents of the plants found in various parts which are suitable for medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Government have taken steps to help augment availability of authentic raw materials to meet the requirements of industry for domestic consumption and export. A Medicinal Plants Board has been set up to coordinate all activities relating to cultivation, conservation, marketing, etc. including drawing up of schemes and programmes to develop this sector. Steps have also been taken to standardize products by laying pharmacopocial standards, augmenting laboratory facilities, notifying Good Manufacturing Practices, relaxation in labelling provisions for export. Assistance has also been provided to State Government Pharmacies and Laboratories.

Development of male contraceptive

2995. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the IIT, Delhi has developed a chemical based male contraceptive as an alternative to vasectomy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.